



## Governor pushes property tax reform

Feb. 21, 2008— Governor Daniels delivered the keynote address at the Tippecanoe County Lincoln Day Dinner held Thursday night. More than 300 people came to the Faith Community Center in Lafayette to learn about the governor's property tax reform plan.

Daniels explained his plan provides both immediate and permanent property tax relief. Under the plan, property tax bills would be capped with a one percent circuit breaker on homes, a two percent cap on rental property and three percent on businesses. Permanent relief would be achieved by writing those caps into the constitution.

In addition, Daniels' plan requires significant local capital spending projects to achieve voter approval in a referendum.

The governor also touched on recent successes, noting that the state has become "leaner and cleaner" by reducing spending and improving efficiency.



Feb. 21, 2008— Governor Daniels visited BJ's Bar and Café in Goodland. Pictured left to right: Michael Welsh, Jim Burns, Dave Welsh, Governor Daniels.

## International technology company to locate new software center in West Lafayette

Feb. 21, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels and officials from Purdue University joined executives from global technology giant EDS (NYSE:EDS) to announce the company's plans to locate its national software solution center in West Lafayette, creating more than 200 software engineer and business analyst positions by 2010.

"It's another win for the Indiana economy, and for one of our hottest growth engines, the region anchored by the Purdue campus. It's a great time to be a software engineer or programmer in Indiana; jobs are waiting, and here come some more," Daniels said.

EDS, which currently employs more than 1,000 professionals in Indiana, will develop technology solutions for its commercial and government health care clients around the world at the new center. The company is currently hiring software engineers and business analysts with degrees in computer science, business management or management information systems to staff the new center.



Feb. 21, 2008— Governor Daniels joined officials from Purdue Research Park and EDS to announce the creation of more than 200 software engineer and business analyst positions by 2010.

[Read the news release.](#)

To view past updates, click [here](#).

To visit Governor Daniels' Web site, click [here](#).

## National lodging owner, developer to expand its corporate HQ in Northwest Indiana

Feb. 21, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels joined executives from lodging owner and developer White Lodging Services to announce the company's plans to expand its national headquarters in Merrillville, creating up to 100 new jobs by 2012.

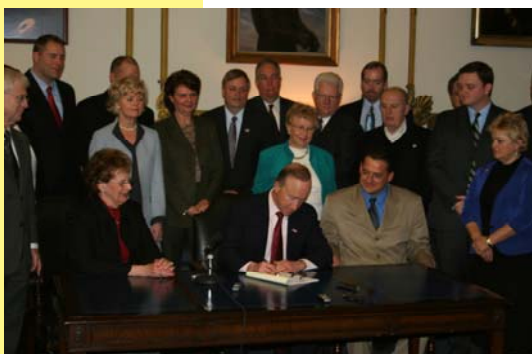
The company, which develops, owns and manages premium-brand hotels in 14 states, plans to invest more than \$4 million to renovate two existing buildings, creating a more than 60,000 square-foot corporate headquarters at 701 East 83<sup>rd</sup> Street and 8315 Virginia Street on the Northwest Indiana town's south side.

"White Lodging Services is a home-grown, high-growth company that continues to create good jobs for Hoosiers and invest heavily in our state. Indiana is proud and lucky to have them," said Daniels.

"We have grown from 52 hotels to 124 hotels during the past 10 years expanding our employment from 2,100 associates to more than 6,000 today," said Bruce White, chairman and chief executive officer of White Lodging Services. "The need to expand our home office resources to support our growth objectives is critical, and we couldn't be happier to be able to do that remaining here in Merrillville with the support of the state and local community."



*Feb. 21, 2008— Governor Daniels announces the expansion of Merrillville-based White Lodging Services.*



*Feb. 20, 2008- Governor Daniels signs the Great Lakes Compact during a ceremony held in the Governor's Office. Indiana is the first state to implement the added protections of the interstate agreement.*

White Lodging currently employs 116 at its existing leased headquarters complex in Merrillville and plans to begin hiring vice presidents, senior directors, managers and operations staff before the end of the year.

[Read the news release.](#)

## Governor signs compact to extend Great Lakes protections

Feb. 20, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels signed the Great Lakes compact on Wednesday, making Indiana the first state to implement the added protections the interstate agreement provides.

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact was developed over five years with representatives of business, industry, agriculture, environmental and other interests, as well as state officials. Governors of eight states - New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Michigan,

Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin and Indiana - reached agreement on the compact late in 2005. The eight states also reached a similar agreement with Ontario and Quebec in 2005.

"Today, we celebrate an achievement that groups who don't always see eye-to-eye came together to support. With this action, we're renewing our commitment to put in place new protections for one of our greatest resources," said Daniels.

[Listen to audio from the Great Lakes Compact bill signing](#)

The compact ensures that authority over Great Lakes water uses stays in the region; that economic development will be fostered through sustainable use and responsible management of the waters; that states will develop regional goals and objectives for water conservation and efficiency and collect and share technical data to improve decision-making; and continues a strong commitment to public involvement in implementation of the compact.

[Read the news release.](#)

Did you know...

**...Governor Daniels' website has an interactive map of *your* county?  
Click [here](#) to see what's happening in your community.**

## Biotechnology developer grows its Purdue Research Park operation

Feb. 20, 2008- Kylin Therapeutics, West Lafayette-based developer of cancer and disease fighting biotechnology, announced it has doubled its workforce and outside investment in its operations with the help of Indiana's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Research and Technology Fund.

The state awarded the biotech company a \$250,000 grant to further develop and commercialize Purdue University technology that allows doctors to target drug delivery for treatment of diseases ranging from AIDS to cancer.

"The 21st Century Fund provides critical seed capital to emerging high-growth companies such as Kylin Therapeutics that are necessary to ensure our state's economic growth," said Governor Daniels.

Kylin Therapeutics is one of 165 high-tech companies operating in the Purdue Research Park system. Developed in the late 1990s to spur economic growth in Indiana's high-tech sector, the park is operated by the Purdue Research Foundation and creates an opportunity for companies to share innovation and a highly skilled workforce.

## Governor announces 100th auto dealership in BMV partnership

Feb. 21, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels celebrated a significant Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) milestone by announcing that the state now has 100 auto dealerships offering BMV services on-site.

"Like many steps in our overhaul of the BMV, registering at the dealership is another way to save a citizen a trip to a license branch. The shortest line is the one you never have to stand in at all," said Governor Daniels, who visited Napleton Auto Werks of Schererville to make the announcement.

BMV Commissioner Ron Stiver said that more than 20,000 transactions have been completed at dealerships since the program was launched as a pilot in May 2007. The partnership is part of the BMV "customer choices" initiative to offer BMV services at non-branch locations.

Commissioner Stiver explained, "Not only does the program provide convenience for customers purchasing a vehicle at participating dealerships, but it also improves in-branch service by helping decrease customer visit times." Stiver went on to note that average statewide customer visit times in January 2008 were 8 minutes and 10 seconds, with customer satisfaction ratings of 98 percent.

Senator Jim Merritt, who authored the 1991 legislation granting the BMV flexibility to partner with dealerships, added, "I commend Governor Daniels and Commissioner Stiver for providing Hoosiers more convenient options to conduct their business with the BMV."

[Read the news release.](#)

[Click here](#) for a list of participating dealerships.

## Hoosiers in the State House



Feb. 20, 2008— The governor poses with members of the Indiana Dietetic Association. The governor has declared March 10, 2008 Indiana Registered Dietitian Day. Pictured left to right: Martha Rardin (Danville), Hanna Kelley (Muncie), Governor Mitch Daniels, Brenda Richardson (Pekin), Georgia Wagner (Richmond).



Feb. 18, 2008— Governor Daniels with Hoosier Girl Scouts. Pictured from left to right: Deb (Indianapolis), Natasha (Indianapolis), Shandalyn (Marion), Governor Mitch Daniels, Krystin (Indianapolis), Allie (Indianapolis).

Did you know...

...there is an easy way to keep track of bills sent to the governor by the General Assembly? Visit Governor Daniels' 2008 [Bill Watch](#).